

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4332

INFO AMEMBASSY ANAA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

S E C R E T JIDDA 2901

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, YE, JO, SA

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN

REF: (A) SANAA 1249; (B) AMMAN 3618 (NOTAL); (C) AMMAN
3626 (NOTAL); (D) SANAA 1262 (NOTAL); (E) JIDDA 2573 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: BELIEVE SAG WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO
PARTICIPATION BY EITHER JORDAN OR USG IN EMERGENCY
PACKAGE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR YAR. IN VIEW OF SAUDI
COOLNESS TOWARD UAE, HOWEVER, AND TO PRESERVE FORTH-
COMING SAUDI ATTITUDE TOWARD LONG-RANGE YEMENI MILITARY
BUILDUP, YAR SHOULD KEEP SAUDIS CLOSELY INFORMED AS TO
ANY MILITARY PURCHASES THEY UNDERTAKE. END SUMMARY.

1. WE PERCEIVE NO OBJECTION TO YAR'S OBTAINING FROM
GOJ SWIFT DELIVERY OF CERTAIN TYPES OF AMMUNITION
YEMENIS MOST URGENTLY NEED. SAUDIS COULD NOT REASONABLY
TAKE MUCH EXCEPTION TO INDIVIDUAL ACT OF ASSISTANCE
BY ONE GOOD NEIGHBOR ON BEHALF OF NAOTHER, ALTHOUGH --
PER REF (E) -- THEY CERTAINLY WOULD FEEL THAT YAR'S

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ASSESSMENT OF ITS CRITICAL AMMO SHORTAGE IS EXAGGERATED.

2. AT SAME TIME, JORDANIANS AND YAR SHOULD KEEP SAUDIS FULLY APPRISED OF NATURE OF ASSISTANCE PLUS TIMING OF DELIVERY. IN INTERESTS OF ENCOURAGING FURTHER SAUDI SUPPORT FOR YAR, WE HOPE FIRST SAUDI SHIPMENT WILL IN FACT ARRIVE BEFORE ANYTHING FROM JORDAN. (THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT FIRST SAUDI VESSEL WITH CARGO OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR YEMEN SAILED SEVERAL DAYS AGO; EMBASSY IS SEEKING CONFIRMATION AND WILL REPORT SUBSEQUENTLY.)

3. IF WE ACCEDE TO YAR REQUEST FOR SALES, DO NOT THINK THAT SAG WOULD FEEL PUT OUT OR THAT WE WERE PREEMPTING JUDGMENT OF GENERAL QABBANI'S MISSION WITH OUR OWN. SAUDIS MIGHT EVEN BE ENCOURAGED BY OUR ACTIONS AND TAKE THEM AS FURTHER SIGN THAT USG WILLING TO SHOULDER A "FAIR" SHARE OF THE LOAD IN YEMEN. HOWEVER, WE NOTE CONSIDERABLE COMMONALITY BETWEEN YAR AMMO REQUESTS TO JORDAN, SAG, AND US. IF SAUDI AND JORDANIAN ASSISTANCE WERE SOON FORTHCOMING, HOW MUCH NEED WOULD THERE BE FOR A US ROLE IN YAR'S EMERGENCY PACKAGE?

4. ADDITIONALLY, YARG MAY WISH TO CONSIDER IMPACT ON ITS LONG-TERM MILITARY RELATIONS WITH SAG IF IT SUDDENLY RECEIVES ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY MILITARY SUPPORT FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS. THIS MAY BE PARTICULARLY TRUE IF SOME OF ASSISTANCE OBTAINED THROUGH LARGE COMMERCIAL DEALS EITHER VIA JORDAN OR US AND FINANCED BY SAUDIS' UNFAVORITE, SHAIKH ZAID. ACCORDINGLY, SUGGEST YAR KEEP SAUDIS CAREFULLY INFORMED ON THIS TOPIC AS WELL, STRESSING PERHAPS THAT THEY MOVING ONLY TO COPE WITH EMERGENCY RPT EMERGENCY SITUATION AND THAT INDEED IN LONG RUN SAUDI AID WILL BE GREATLY NEEDED AND MOST WELCOME.
THACHER

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